7. Desirability of throwing open certain Reserves, not required for forest conservancy, either for purposes of cultivation or for registry in the names of private individuals.

Mr. S. Padmanabha Panicker (Member, Nominated) represented that certain reserved forests such as Kodumon, Karimkulam and Karikattur served no useful purpose, as they contained very little tree-growth. Moreover, being situated in the midst of habitations and cultivated areas, they harboured many wild beasts which destroyed crops and cattle. The above reserves should be cancelled and registered in the names of the ryots or at least granted for temporary cultivation. There were extensive areas in other Reserved forests also which, being swampy and devoid of tree-growth, were not required for purposes of forest conservancy, and could, therefore, be profitably thrown open for cultivation. The Member suggested that a Committee consisting of officials and non-officials be formed to find out such lands, and that such areas as are recommended by the Committee as fit for cultivation be disafforested and thrown open for registry. A bold step in that direction was urgently called for in view of the present economic distress.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

8. Desirability of throwing open for cultivation all lands at the disposal of Government, including reserved areas, on moderate terms with a view to meet the increasing demand for paddy cultivation.

Mr. R. Govindan Nair (Member, Minachil taluk) represented that the inhabitants of Minachil, Todupuzha and other hilly taluks in the State were now suffering great hardships on account of lack of facilities for paddy cultivation and that they stood in need of many concessions from the Government in that respect. At one time they were allowed to cultivate the hill slopes with paddy, but all those areas had been converted into reserved forests. He urged that, with the exception of the areas absolutely required for purposes of forest conservancy, the remaining portions of the reserves should be allowed to be cultivated with paddy. That was a very desirable step in view of the present economic distress in the country and the high prices of food grains.

The Agricultural Department should also be required to devote special attention to *cherikal* cultivation and suggest measures for bringing the *cherikal* lands, which were now cultivated once in 7 or 8 years, under annual cultivation.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

9. Grievances of the ryots on account of the inaccuracies in the recent re-survey of the Nedumangad taluk and the urgent need for rectifying the mistakes.

Mr. M. Subramania Pillai (Member, Nedumangad taluk) represented that most of the lands in the Nedumangad taluk were those that had been brought under registry at one time or other prior to the re-survey. During the re-survey, the records showing prior registries like those of the Settlement were, however, not gone into and, consequently, lands already registered were treated as waste lands and waste lands as registered holdings. Lands included within the limits of registered holdings had also been recorded as road sites and canal banks without regard to the old Ayacut or Survey measurements. Further, lands registered at the Settlement and subsequent thereto were located in waste lands in the hills and the really registered lands treated as *puduvals*. Steps were being taken to again register the latter class of lands on recovery of *tharavila*, *thadivila*, &c. There were also excesses and deficiencies in the areas surveyed as registered holdings. Another grievance of the people was that, though at the time of the original survey, boundary stones were planted inside the lands adjoining rivers, &c., for fear that they might be washed away, such stones were now treated as marking the outer boundaries of the lands.

Again, the ryots had no opportunity of knowing the mistakes and irregularities that were being committed when the Survey was in progress. They, however, preferred complaints to the Taluk authorities when the registration proceedings were

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